

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATIONIn the Title:

The title has been amended as follows:

Method [and Apparatus] for Detecting Presence of Microorganisms,  
and Quantities of Microorganisms

In the Abstract:

The abstract at page 27 has been amended as follows:

Fast microbial detection is accomplished without an indicator interfering with microorganism growth, without a culture medium degrading the performance of an indicator and without a color of test sample adversely effecting the microbial detection process. A container [3a] has a portion which accommodates a fluid culture medium [7a], and has a portion which accommodates a CO<sub>2</sub> indicator. [8a and a] A CO<sub>2</sub> gas-permeable membrane [4A which] isolates [a] the CO<sub>2</sub> indicator [8a] from [a] the fluid culture medium [7a]. The test sample is added in [a] the fluid culture medium [7a] and then [a] the container [3a] is sealed. The determination of the presence of microorganisms is accomplished by verifying a color change of a CO<sub>2</sub>

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indicator [8a]. The quantity of microorganisms is determined by measuring time from when the container is sealed until an indicator portion has a color change.